

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) - FAQ

1. Which students take AIMS and/or *TerraNova*?

Students in Grades 2 and 9 take the *TerraNova*. Students in Grades 3-8 take the AIMS DPA (Dual Purpose Assessment). Students in Grade 10 take the AIMS HS (High School) and continue to test twice annually in Grades 11 -12 until they have met or exceeded the standard in each area tested.

2. What is the *TerraNova*?

The *TerraNova* is a national norm-referenced assessment created by CTB/McGraw - Hill. It is an assessment of three content areas: reading, language arts, and mathematics. It is administered to Arizona public school students in Grades 2 and 9.

3. What is the AIMS DPA?

The AIMS DPA (Dual Purpose Assessment) is a combination of AIMS criterion - referenced assessment questions, developed by Arizona educators and based on the Arizona Academic Standards, and questions from the *TerraNova*, a national norm-referenced test created by CTB/McGraw -Hill. It is an assessment of three content areas: writing, reading, and mathematics. It is administered to Arizona public school students in Grades 3-8.

4. What is the AIMS HS?

The AIMS HS (High School) is a criterion -referenced test with questions developed by Arizona educators and based on the Arizona Academic Standards. It is an assessment of three content areas: writing, reading, and mathematics. It is administered in Arizona public schools each spring to Grade 10 students. It is again administered in the fall and spring to Arizona public school students in Grades 11 or 12 who have not yet met or exceeded the standard (passed) in one or more content areas.

5. When will my student be tested using the AIMS DPA or *TerraNova*?

The AIMS DPA and *TerraNova* are administered in April. Contact your student's school for a copy of the district calendar with specific testing dates. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link:
<http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

6. What is the high school testing schedule?

AIMS HS Writing and Reading are administered in February. AIMS HS Mathematics is administered in April. All three content areas of AIMS HS are administered in October. Contact your student's school for a copy of the district calendar with specific testing dates. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window

dates go to this link:

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7. My student was absent for the AIMS test. Can he/she make -up the AIMS test at a different time?

Spring make-up dates for AIMS DPA and *TerraNova* are scheduled by the school district/charter within the testing window. Students are allowed to make -up these tests as scheduled by the school district or charter. The AIMS HS make -up dates are generally one week after the initial administration of the test in the spring. Students may test on these dates for make-up only. High school students who miss both the regular test dates and the make-up test dates will not be able to test until the next regular test administration. If students in Grades 11 and 12 miss the Fall administration, they will have to wait until the Spring administration to take the tests. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link: <http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

8. Does my student have to test?

The law requires every public school district and charter to test each enrolled student.

9. Are private-schooled and home-schooled students allowed/required to test using AIMS DPA or HS?

Private- and home-schooled students are not required by law to test using AIMS. Private schools may administer AIMS tests if they choose to do so. Private-schooled students and home-schooled students may test at their local district school. A parent or guardian must contact the Test Coordinator at the local district school to make arrangements for AIMS testing.

10. When will I receive my student's AIMS results?

AIMS results are sent to the student's school district/charter school, and the district/charter school is responsible for their distribution. Fall AIMS HS results are available in December. Spring AIMS HS Writing and Reading reports are available in April. AIMS HS Mathematics results for graduating seniors are available in mid - May. All other AIMS HS Mathematics results, AIMS DPA results, and *TerraNova* results are available in June. Contact your student's school for specific dates and methods of distribution of test score reports.

11. I cannot find my student's AIMS results. Who has a copy?

Your student's school maintains copies of AIMS and *TerraNova* results. Please contact your student's school for a copy of the results.

12. My student has transferred to another school. How do they get my student's AIMS results?

Your student's new school will request records from your student's previous school (including AIMS and *TerraNova* results).

13. Who can help me read/interpret my student's score report?

Your student's teacher and school are your best resources for helping you understand your student's score report as they are both familiar with the report and with your student.

14. My student's test score report shows an "invalid" result. What can I do?

Speak with your student's school administration. Based upon their copy of the score report, they may be able to determine what prompted the "invalid" result. Common causes of "invalid" results are the use of a pen instead of a pencil, a blank response, illegible handwriting on a writing test, or an off-topic response to a writing prompt.

15. Do students in Grades 3-8 have to pass the AIMS DPA in order to be promoted to the next grade level?

Arizona law does not require students to pass the AIMS DPA test in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Parents concerned about their student's promotion should discuss these matters with the student's teacher as local school districts/charter schools have specific policies related to promotion.

16. Does a high school student have to pass the AIMS HS in order to graduate?

Yes. Students graduating (receiving a diploma) on or after January 1, 2006 must pass each area of the AIMS HS (Writing, Reading, and Mathematics) by achieving a score in the "meets" range in order to graduate from a public high school in Arizona. AIMS Augmentation (see below) may be used to reach that passing score. There are exceptions to this requirement for students with disabilities and students transferring to Arizona from out of state (see below).

17. Do students with an IEP or 504 Plan have to pass the AIMS HS in order to graduate?

Not necessarily. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan are not required to pass AIMS HS in order to graduate unless the IEP or 504 Plan specifically requires the student to pass one or more content areas of AIMS HS in order to graduate. Parents should discuss the content of their student's IEP or 504 Plan with the student's teacher.

18. Do ELL students have to pass the AIMS HS in order to graduate?

Yes.

19. How does AIMS Augmentation work?

AIMS Augmentation allows eligible students to increase their AIMS HS test scores using high school grades. To qualify for AIMS Augmentation, a student must have

completed all of their required coursework, participated in tutoring opportunities, and taken the AIMS HS each time it was offered. If a student's augmented score is above the passing score on that portion of the AIMS HS, the student has met the graduation requirement for that content area. Augmentation is available only to students graduating in 2006 or 2007. Students and parents interested in AIMS augmentation must speak with their student's guidance counselor.

20. Does Arizona have reciprocity with other states?

Arizona law allows for passing scores from other states' high school standards-based exams that are equivalent to the Arizona AIMS HS test to be used in place of the AIMS. Students/parents must provide official documentation to the school of the student's score(s) from the other state. High school counselors and registrars have a list available of specific exams and states which are eligible for Arizona reciprocity.

21. If my student "exceeds" on every area of the AIMS HS is he/she eligible for the state school "Tuition Waiver"?

While "exceeding" in every area of the AIMS HS is one requirement of the "Tuition Waiver," it is not the only requirement. Please contact your student's guidance counselor for further information and/or visit www.azed.gov/asd/tuitionwaiver/.

22. When will students begin to take the AIMS Science Tests?

The AIMS Science Test will be field tested in April 2007 in Grades 4 and 8 and high school. Because this is a field test, no student reports are issued. AIMS Science operational tests will begin in the 2007 – 2008 school year and will be administered each year thereafter. Student reports will be available. Contact your student's school for a copy of the district calendar with specific testing dates. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link: <http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>